

“This Is Your Life”
Romans 8:5-9a

Introduction:

1. **IE:** Reality TV - Love It Or Hate It - Is Not A Recent Thing! One Of The Earliest Reality Shows - On Both Radio And TV - Was A Show Produced By NBC Called - “This Is Your Life!”
 - On The Show - Guests Would Be Surprised With Some Of The Key Events And People - Who Had Been Part Of Their Lives!
 - Sometimes These Guests Were Celebrities - Other Times - They Were Not - But Most Of Them Were Usually Touched By The Often Funny, But Always Memorable Encounters!
 - And - The Host Would Always Begin By Saying The Four Words On The Top Of Your Message Guide:
 - “This Is Your Life!”
2. Well - In A Way:
 - This Is What The Apostle Paul:
 - Will Be Doing With Us This Morning:
 - In The Verses We Come To Next:
 - In The Book Of Romans - Romans 8!
 - So - Please Turn There With Me In Your Bibles!
 - Romans 8 - Where We Will Find:
 - Some Rather Detailed Descriptions:
 - Of People’s Lives!
 - And We Find That, In Terms Of Christ:
 - There Are Only Two Primary Classes Of People In This World!
 - Those Who Are Without Christ & Those Who Are In Christ!
 - If You Are **Without** Christ:
 - “This Is **Your** Life” - You Are A Sinner:
 - And Have Been Condemned By God:
 - For Your Sin! But:
 - If You Are **In** Christ:
 - “**This** Is Your Life” - Even Though You Are Still A Sinner:
 - You Have Been Justified By God Through Faith:
 - And Now - 8:1 - “There Is Therefore No Condemnation To Them Which Are In Christ Jesus!”
3. These Are Two Totally Different Lives:
 - For Two Totally Different Kinds Of People!
 - And They Are The Only Two!
 - I Remember The Song We Used To Sing As Children - “One Door!”
 - One Door, And Only One
 - And Yet Its Sides Are Two,
 - Inside And Outside,
 - On Which Side Are You?
 - One Door, And Only One,
 - And Yet Its Sides Are Two,
 - I’m On The Inside,
 - On Which Side Are You?
 - This Is The Question That:
 - The Apostle Paul Wants You To Get Right!
 - So - He Wants You To Know:
 - Whether Or Not:
 - “This Is Your Life!”
 - Whether Or Not:
 - You Really Are Free From:
 - The Condemnation Of Sin!
 - The Control Of Sin!
 - And - The Clutches Of Sin:
 - That We Looked At Last Week!
4. Well - How **Can** You Know?

- How **Can** You Be Sure:
 - That You Are On The Right Side Of The Door?
 - The Inside Of The Door?
 - And Have Been Justified By Faith?
- The Key Is What We Read:
 - In The Last Part Of 8:4:
 - “Who Walk Not After The Flesh, But After The Spirit!”
 - Remember - This Is Not:
 - The Condition:
 - For Your Justification:
 - But A Description:
 - Of Your Justification!
 - This Is Your Life!
 - This Is Your Walk!

5. And For A True Christian:

- There Will Be A Big Difference:
 - Between Your Old Life:
 - When You Walked “After The Flesh!”
 - And Your New Life:
 - As You “Walk After The Spirit!”
 - That Is - The Holy Spirit Of God!
- And In The Next Verses We Come To:
 - The Apostle Paul Spells Out For Us:
 - Some Of The Major Differences
 - Between The Unsaved & The Saved!
 - Between The Condemned & The Justified!
 - And - As He Does:
 - I Want You To Think About This Question:
 - “**Which** Is **Your** Life?”
 - 8:5-9a - “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. / For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. / Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. / So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. / But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you!”
 - So - “**Which** Is **Your** Life?”
 - Do You Notice A Difference?

* The First Difference We Find In These Verses Is:

1. **A Difference In Disposition!**

- In 8:5 - “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit!”
 - A Disposition Is What A Person Is Inclined To Do:
 - Based On Who They Are!
 - **IE:** A Good Example Of This Is The Elections That Just Took Place In Our Country! You May Have Voted One Way - But Someone Else - Perhaps Even Close To You - Voted Another Way!
 - And Yet - Both Of You Can’t Understand How The Other Person Could Vote The Way He Or She Did!
 - You Have Different Dispositions & Inclinations Based On Your Different Positions And Principles - Whether They Are Right Or Whether They Are Wrong!
 - In This Verse:
 - We Find Mentioned First:
- The Disposition Of Unbelievers!
 - As Paul Writes:
 - 8:5a - “For They That Are After The Flesh Do Mind The Things Of The Flesh!”
 - Now - We Need To Remember That When Paul Uses The Word “Flesh” Here - He Is Not Just Referring To The Physical You!
 - He’s Referring To The Fallen You! The Sinful You!
 - And This Fallen Nature:

- Has Infected Every Part Of You!
 - Your Human Nature:
 - Has Been Stained By Sin!
 - Is Constantly Swayed By Sin!
 - And Is Still In The Service Of Sin!
- Now - How Can You Tell:
 - If This Is Still Your Life?
 - Because - You Still:
 - “Mind The Things Of The Flesh!”
 - To “Mind” Here:
 - Means - Your Disposition:
 - Is Toward The “Things Of The Flesh!”
 - It Means That:
 - There Is A Special Focus:
 - On Those Things:
 - With Your Mind!
 - It Means That:
 - There Is A Certain Fondness:
 - On Those Things:
 - In Your Heart!
 - And - It Also Means That:
 - There Is A Deep Favor:
 - On Those Things:
 - In Your Will!
 - **IE:** Those Who “Walk After The Flesh” Will Always Gravitare Toward “The Things Of The Flesh!”
- And - What Are Those “Things Of The Flesh?
 - In Galatians 5 - They Are Defined For Us:
 - 5:19-21 - “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, / Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, / Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God!”
 - Now - This Does Not Mean That:
 - If You Walk “After The Flesh” That:
 - You Will Pursue Every Single One Of These Sins!
 - Nor Does It Mean That:
 - You Will Go To The Extreme Depths Of A Sin Either!
 - But - It Does Mean That:
 - You Have An Affinity:
 - Toward Sin!
 - You Are Bent Toward:
 - Pleasing Yourself:
 - In Some Or In All Of The Ways Mentioned Here!
 - Your Desire Is To Fulfill Your Own Lusts:
 - For Personal Pleasure, Or Prominence, Or Power, Or Passion:
 - Outside Of God’s Will And Contrary To God’s Word!
- “This Is Your Life”:
 - If You Are Still Walking “After The Flesh!”
 - But - In The Rest Of 8:5 - We Find A Big Difference! A Difference In:
- The Disposition Of Believers!
 - As Paul Also Writes:
 - 8:5b - “But they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit!”
 - When Paul Uses The Word “Spirit” Here - He Is Referring To:
 - Not Your Human Spirit - But:
 - The Holy Spirit Of God!
- And - It Is Clear That:
 - The Holy Spirit:

- Has Completely Changed:
 - The Disposition Of Your Heart!
- There Is Now:
 - A New Focus:
 - On Heavenly Things:
 - With Your Mind!
 - You Now Want To:
 - “Set Your Affection On Things Above, Not On Things On The Earth!” (Col. 3:2)
- There Is Now:
 - A New Fondness:
 - For Holy Things:
 - In Your Heart!
 - You Now Want To:
 - Be “Holy” Because God Himself Is Holy!
- And - There Is Now:
 - A New Favor:
 - For Higher Things:
 - In Your Will!
 - The Song That Rings In Your Heart Is This:
 - I Am Resolved No Longer To Linger,
Charmed By The World’s Delight,
Things That Are Higher, Things That Are Nobler, These Have Allured My Sight!
 - **IE:** If You Have Truly Saved - And Are “Walking After the Spirit” - Then There Will Be A New Impression / A New Impulse / A New Inclination Within You! You Will Gravitate Toward “The Things Of The Spirit!”
- And - What Are Those “Things Of The Spirit?”
 - Paul Defines These Things Also In Galatians 5:
 - As The “Fruit Of The Spirit” - 5:22-25 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, / Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. / And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. / If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit!”
- “This Is Your Life”:
 - If You Are Now Walking “After The Spirit!”
 - And This The Change / The Renovation:
 - That God Will Do In Your Heart:
 - When You Turn To & Trust In Jesus Christ As Your Savior From Sin!
 - And With This New Disposition:
 - You Can Know That You Are:
 - Free From The Condemnation Of Your Sin!

* The Second Difference We Find In Romans 8 Is:

2. A Difference In Direction!

- Which We Find In 8:6 - “For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace!”
- There Are Two Different Destinations:
 - Referred To In This Verse!
 - **IE:** And - This Is A Good Reminder That The Way Of The Lord & The Way Of The Lord Are Not Parallel Tracks That Lead To The Same Destination! No - They Are Opposite! And So - Paul First Points Out:
- The Direction Of The Flesh:
 - In 8:6a - “For to be carnally minded [is] death!”
 - “Carnally Minded” Can Also Be Translated:
 - The “Mind Of The Flesh!”
 - It Refers To That Disposition:
 - And That “State Of Mind And Heart That Gravitates Toward:
 - “The Things Of The Flesh!”
 - This Is Your Main Outlook On Life!
- And - Where Does This Kind Of Mind:
 - Lead? Where Does It Always End Up?

- “Death!”
 - Death Is - At Its Core:
 - Separation!
 - When You Talk About:
 - Physical Death:
 - It Is Because A Person Has Been Separated From Their Body!
 - But - When You Talk About:
 - Spiritual Death:
 - It Is Because A Person Is Separated From God Forever!
 - You Need To Realize:
 - That The Mind Of The Flesh - As Well As:
 - The Works Of The Flesh:
 - Are Dangerous And Deadly!
 - And Yet - How Often:
 - Do People Still Run After Sin:
 - With All Of Their Heart!
 - “This Is Your Life”:
 - If You Are Still Walking “After The Flesh!”
 - But - What A Terrible Way To Live:
 - Knowing That All You Have To Look Forward To:
 - Is Death!
 - But - In The Rest Of 8:6:
 - We Find A Big Difference! A Difference In:
 - The Direction Of The Spirit!
 - In 8:6b - “But To Be Spiritually Minded Is Life And Peace!”
 - “Spiritually Minded” Can Also Be Translated:
 - The “Mind Of The Spirit!”
 - This Is Not Talking About:
 - The Spirit’s Own Mind!
 - Instead - It Is Referring To:
 - A Christian’s Mind And Disposition:
 - Toward The Things Of God And The Holy Spirit!
 - If The Higher And Holy And Heavenly Things:
 - Of God - Are Your Primary Outlook:
 - In Life - Then - Where Does **It** Lead?
 - “Life And Peace!”
 - The Exact Opposite Destination Of Death!
 - Not Only Are You Promised - As A Believer In Christ:
 - Eternal Life - In The Presence Of God:
 - But You Are Also Provided:
 - An Abundant Life & A Peace:
 - “Which Passeth All Understanding!”
 - A Peace - The World:
 - “Cannot Take Away!”
 - This Is What We Find In:
 - Isaiah 26:3 - “Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, [whose] mind [is] stayed [on thee]: because he trusteth in thee!”
- And - “This Is Your Life”:
- If You Are Now “Minding After The Things Of The Spirit!”
 - What A Difference! What A Change!
- The Things Of Your Flesh:
 - Are Deadly Things!
 - But - The Things Of The Spirit:
 - Are Living Things!
- And With This New Direction:
 - You Can Know That You Are:
 - Free From The Condemnation Of Your Sin!
- But - How Do We Know:
 - That The “Things Of The Flesh” Lead To Death?

- Well - Paul Explains This Further In 8:7:
- When He Reveals:

3. ***A Difference In Determination!***

- 8:7 - "Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be!"
 - Those Who Possess The "Mind Of The Flesh" Rarely Think:
 - That Who They Are & What They Do:
 - Are Dangerous And Deadly!
 - And So - We Need To See Our Fallen Nature:
 - For What It Really Is!
 - Sinners Are Determined:
 - In Their Rebellion Against God:
 - And His Law!
 - In This Verse We See That:
- Sinners Are Hostile:
 - Toward God!
 - 8:7a - "Because The Carnal Mind - The Mind Of The Flesh - Is Enmity Against God!"
 - Note The Word Here Is:
 - "Enmity" - Not Just - "Enemy!"
 - **IE:** Probably Heard The Names - "The Hatfields & The McCoys" - Notorious For A Family Feud That Went On In The South For Generations - Lives Were Lost In That Feud - After A While - Forgot Why They Were Fighting! They Remained Enemies - And The Enmity Was In Who They Were - Even In Their Names!
 - So It Is With Our Sin And Flesh!
 - Its Not Just What A Sinner Does:
 - That Makes Them God's Enemy!
 - Its What They Are!
 - Its Not Just What Takes Place On The Outside:
 - Its Who They Are On The Inside!
 - Sinners Are Actively Hostile:
 - Toward God! But Also:
 - Sinners Are Hateful:
 - Toward God And His Law!
 - 8:7b - "For It Is Not Subject To The Law Of God!"
 - Remember What We Learned About God's Law Back In 7:12?
 - "Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good!"
 - Well - The "Mind Of The Flesh" Is:
 - Neither Holy, Nor Just, Nor Good!
 - And The Way You React To:
 - God's Law & His Word:
 - Reveals What You Think About God Himself!
 - Does The Law Of God:
 - Stir You? Does The Word Of God:
 - Move You And Soften You?
 - Or - Does It Lead To Even More:
 - Resistance To God's Commands, God's Control, And God's Constraints Over You?
 - Sinners Are Actively Hateful:
 - Toward God And His Law! But Even More:
 - Sinners Are Headstrong:
 - Against God!
 - 8:7c - "Neither indeed can be!"
 - That Is - Sinners Not Only:
 - Won't Allow Themselves To Be Subject To God:
 - They Can't!
 - This Describes How:
 - Completely Corrupt And Depraved The Flesh Is!
 - It Is Like The Tongue Described In James:

- James 3:7-8 - “For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame!”
- Some Things Just Can’t Be Tamed!
 - This Is What The Flesh - Our Fallen Human Nature:
 - Is Like!
 - I Can’t Tame Or Control:
 - My Flesh! And:
 - Neither Can You!
 - Only God Can!
- But - This Is Why:
 - Our Flesh Is Destined For Death!
 - It Is Because - Apart From God’s Intervention:
 - We Are Determined To Persist:
 - In Our Hostility And Hatred Against God!
 - And There’s Nothing You Nor I Can Do About It - In Or By Ourselves!
 - Sadly - “This Is Your Life” - If:
 - You Have Not Repented From Your Own Self:
 - And Cried Out To The Lord:
 - “God, Be Merciful To Me A Sinner!”
 - But - When You Do Cry Out To The Lord:
 - There Will Be Another Big Difference:
 - In Your Life! And That Difference:
 - Is What We Find In 8:8-9a:

4. ***A Difference In Dwelling!***

- 8:8-9a - “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. / But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you!”
- So - As We’ve Already Seen In These Verses:
 - There Is Only One Kind Of Life:
 - Or Another!
 - You Are Either Living:
 - “In The Flesh” - Or:
 - You Are Living:
 - “In The Spirit!”
- If You Are:
 - In The Flesh:
 - It Is Crystal Clear That:
 - You “Cannot Please God!”
 - To Be “In” - Means:
 - That You Live “Under The Government” Of Something Or Someone!
 - Your Instincts:
 - As A Sinner:
 - Are To Sin!
 - And Sin Never Pleases God!
 - And - Apart From The Intervention Of God:
 - This Will Always Be The Case!
 - In Jeremiah 13:23 - The Lord Asks This Penetrating Question - “Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? [then] may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil!”
 - But - Here - The Apostle Paul:
 - Was “Persuaded Of Better Things” - For:
 - The Christians He Was Writing To:
 - There In The City Of Rome!
 - And - We Can Be “Persuaded Of Better Things” As Well:
 - Because - If There Is Within You:
 - A Desire To:
 - “Please God” - It Means Something!
 - After All - This Is:

- “The True Goal Of The Believer’s Life!” (Hendrickson)
- Do You Have This Desire?
 - To Please God Means:
 - “To Fill God’s Heart With Delight!” (Hendrickson)
 - Is This How You Want To Live Your Life?
 - If So - Then It Means That You Are Now:
- In The Spirit!
 - 8:9a - “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you!”
 - You Are Living Under The Government:
 - Of A New Master - Jesus Christ - And:
 - Under The Guidance:
 - Of The Holy Spirit - Whom He Sent!
 - What Encouraging Words:
 - These Must Have Been:
 - To That Roman Church:
 - Who Were Living In Such:
 - A Culture Of The Flesh!
 - Weak!
 - Worldly!
 - Wicked!
 - Because Now - They - And You - If You Are A Christian:
 - Have Such A Connection With:
 - The Holy Spirit That:
 - He Has Changed:
 - Your Walk! (8:4)
 - Your Outlook! (8:5)
 - Your Direction & Destiny! (8:6)
 - **IE:** Its Like The Changes That Take Place When You Get Married! But Even More!
 - But - What Makes This Change Possible?
 - If I Can’t Change My Own Flesh:
 - How Can It Be Changed?
 - Because - 8:9 - “If So Be That The Spirit Of God Dwell In You!”
 - This Is The Key!
 - In John 14:16-17 - Jesus Said - “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; / [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you!”
 - When You Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - He Sends The Holy Spirit:
 - To Make Your Heart:
 - His Home - And Will:
 - Renew It And Sanctify It So That:
 - All Of These Differences Will Be Your Change!
 - 1 Corinthians 3:16 - “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”
 - “This Is Your Life” Now:
 - If You Are A Child Of God’s!

Conclusion:

1. So - Think Back Through These Verses?
 - Which Life Is Yours?
 - Which Side Of The Door:
 - Are You On?
2. Do You See The Description:
 - Paul Gave Of:
 - The Life Of An Unbeliever:
 - In Your Own Life?
 - Your Disposition - “The Things Of The Flesh - ?
 - Your Direction!

- Even Your Determination:
 - Against God?
- If So - It Is Because:
 - Of Your Dwelling:
 - You Remain Living “In The Flesh!”
 - And - You Need Help!
 - But - Praise God - There Is Help For You!
- 3. Because - When You Turn To & Trust In Jesus Alone:
 - For Salvation From Your Sin:
 - Then There Is A Great Change That Takes Place:
 - Through The Work Of The Holy Spirit Of God!
 - He Changes You & Gives You:
 - A New Disposition:
 - Toward “The Things Of The Spirit!”
 - He Changes You & Gives You:
 - A New Direction & Destination:
 - Of Life & Peace Through Jesus Christ!
 - He Changes You & Gives You:
 - A New Desire:
 - To Please God! And:
 - He Does All Of This:
 - Through His New Indwelling Presence:
 - In Your Heart!
 - 4. And - All Of This:
 - Becomes Proof For You:
 - That There Is Indeed:
 - “No Condemnation” To You:
 - Since You Are In Christ Jesus!
 - May This Be Your Life!
 - Because He Has Become:
 - Your Life And Your Salvation!

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